



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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April 17, 2003

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist *PBB*

RE: Site Inspection, Molycorp, Small Fry Mine, M/037/022, San Juan County, Utah

Date of Inspection: March 27 and 28, 2003  
Time of Inspection: about 4:40 to 5:10 p.m. on March 27 and 9:15 to 9:45 a.m. on March 28  
Conditions: Partly cloudy, 30's, windy  
Participants: Gary Haptonstall (URS Corporation—Reclamation Contractor) and Denice Swanke (BLM) both on March 28, and Paul Baker (DOGM)

## Purpose of Inspection:

The operator was completing final seedbed preparation and seeding, and we wanted to make sure there were no concerns before the contractor pulled his equipment and personnel.

## Getting to the site:

The report for the May 1, 2002, inspection describes how to get to the site.

## Observations:

The contractor had been using a small dozer with rippers (Photo 1) to scarify the surface prior to seeding. Most of the area had been seeded and mulched with certified noxious weed free straw, and the contractor was working to complete this work. Views of various parts of the reclaimed area are shown in Photos 2 through 4.

The area shown in Photo 4 is where there had been a ventilation shaft. This area had not been scarified, and the surface was well crusted. I told Mr. Haptonstall I felt little if any seed would grow in this area if it was not scarified and suggested this ought to be done. It appears the soil may have a high clay content, so revegetation in this area may be difficult even with proper seedbed preparation.

As can be seen in Photo 2, the final prepared surface is not extremely rough, but because most of the site is not too steep, I believe the surface preparation is adequate.

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There is a short stretch of access road that was reclaimed and gouged last spring, and it was driveable at the time of the current inspection. Mr. Haptonstall said some people working for the county had graded this road. He was planning to re-rip it.

#### **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

Ms Swanke said she would get some signs to place at various entrances to the reclaimed area advising people to stay off because it is a reclaimed area. She later told me she had installed three signs but needed to put up one more. We hope that with these signs, the county road department and the public will be conscientious and stay out of the reclaimed area.

Although it may be difficult for vegetation to become established in the area of the vent shaft, it should be ripped to break the crust and allow the seed some chance to grow.

Overall, the contractor was doing good work (in some very cold conditions). With adequate precipitation, I anticipate revegetation success.

jb

cc: Denice Swanke, Moab BLM  
Dick Brammer, Molycorp

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**ATTACHMENT**  
**Inspection Date: March 27 and 28, 2003; Report Date: April 17, 2003**  
**Photographs**  
**S/037/022, Small Fry Mine, Molycorp**



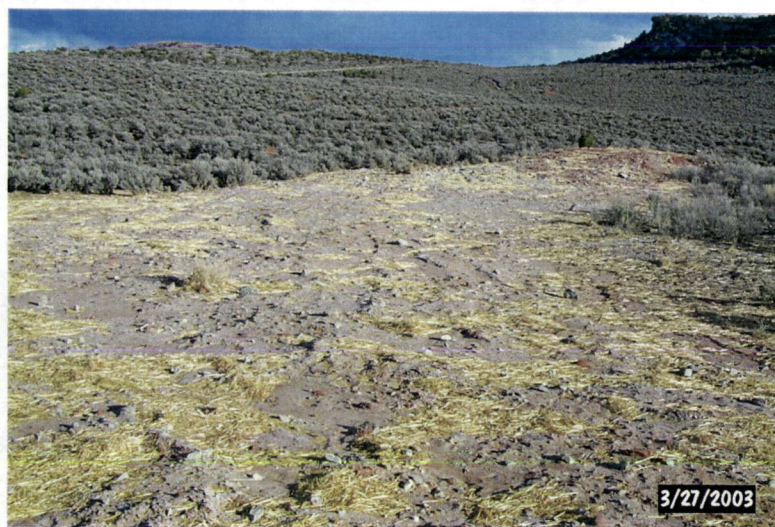
**Photo 1. The dozer being used to rip the reclaimed area prior to seeding.**



**Photo 3. An overview of part of the main pad area.**



**Photo 2.**



**Photo 4. The area near the ventilation shaft.**